

Appendix I. Brief History of the Campus Natural Areas

Introduction

The University of Wisconsin-Madison properties that are now called the Campus Natural Areas have had a long and complex history (see a summary later in this appendix). For many years these properties were not managed at all, or were managed haphazardly by various campus entities. Beginning in the 1960s, a faculty effort was made to bring these areas under the management of the Arboretum Committee. A "Wooded Areas Committee" began to agitate for protection of Picnic Point and Eagle Heights, the two most extensive properties. Faculty concern had arisen primarily because of the encroachment into Muir Woods by construction in 1962 of the Social Science Building.

After extensive and complex negotiations between the Arboretum Committee, the Graduate Biological Division, and the Campus Planning Committee, an agreement was reached to give jurisdictional responsibility for the Campus Natural Areas to the Arboretum Committee. The Campus Planning Committee took action on March 3, 1967. The approved document was explicit about the subdivision of the campus lands and their responsibilities. Maps were attached. Properties listed as prime sites for teaching and research included Eagle Heights Woods, Second Point Woods, North Shore Woods, University Bay, and Picnic Point Marsh. These areas were officially designated as part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum. A second group of areas was recognized to be of significant biological value because of frequent instructional use and for their esthetic values. These included Muir Woods, Picnic Point (excepting the marsh area), the Lake Mendota shoreline between Limnology and University Bay (now called the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path), the marsh and wetland area west of University Bay (now called the Class of 1918 Marsh), and an area between Elizabeth Waters Hall and the Kronshage housing units. These latter areas were to be maintained by the Division of Physical Plant, who was however charged with recognizing the interests of biologists in these areas.

Since 1967, there has been only one addition to the Campus Natural Areas, the Jackson property on Second Point, now called Frautschi Point. In the agreement transferring this property from the UW Foundation to the university, it was stated that this property should be managed like Picnic Point (that is, under the responsibility of the Division of Physical Plant).

(The above summary is based on a document provided by Greg Armstrong.)

History of individual components of the Campus Natural Areas

The small wooded area called **Muir Woods** is a remnant of a woods that once occupied all of Bascom Hill. It is named for John Muir, the famous naturalist and author, who was a student at the university in the 1860s. At one time a ski jump existed at the east end of the woods and the Carillon tower was erected at the west end in the 1930s. When the Social Science Building was built on part of **Muir Woods** in 1962, faculty in the

biological sciences realized that the university might eventually develop the whole woods and established a Wooded Areas Committee (see Introduction, above).

The **Howard Temin Lakeshore Path** connects the Memorial Union with Picnic Point. It began its existence as a drive for horses and bicycles in the 19th century and has remained as a natural corridor for travel to the west campus area ever since. This path was dedicated in 1998 to Howard Temin, the late professor of virology and oncology, a beloved campus figure whose outstanding research was recognized by the Nobel Prize. In the 1950s, the UW Board of Visitors proposed a motor road for this corridor, a proposal that was successfully combated by strong faculty and student opposition.

Most of the Campus Natural Areas comprise primarily natural or semi-natural tracts of land in the west campus area. Until early in the 20th century, the west boundary of the University of Wisconsin-Madison was at Willow Creek. In 1892-94 the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association built a bridge across Willow Creek and a causeway (now part of the Temin Path) across the marsh at the edge of University Bay. This "Pleasure Drive" provided access from the University to two large farms, the Picnic Point Farm of Breese Stevens and the Eagle Heights farm of George Raymer. Lake Mendota Drive was constructed at this time.

Beginning in 1909, the university began to acquire the wetlands between University Bay Drive and University Bay for research on wetland farming. In 1910, the University acquired the George Raymer farm, thus extending its boundaries to what would later become the corporate limits of the Village of Shorewood Hills. Although most of the Raymer farm was used for agricultural research, the area that we now call the **Eagle Heights Natural Area**, and wooded areas north of Lake Mendota Drive (now called **Wally Bauman Woods** and **North Shore Woods**) remained in their natural state. After World War II, University Houses faculty housing and the Eagle Heights Married Student Apartments were created from the agricultural areas, with only minor encroachment on the wooded areas.

Beginning about World War I, the UW established the **Tent Colony** on the part of the old Raymer property north of Lake Mendota Drive. This served as a summer residence for students, and operated until about 1960. The west boundary of the Tent Colony is where the parking area stands today. Near the parking area was a natural area called the "daisy field", which was part of a small park, including a small beach and cove, that had been given to the Park and Pleasure Drive Association by George Raymer early in the 20th century.

West of the Tent Colony, the Women's Athletic Association had built a recreational unit (later called Blackhawk Lodge). This lodge eventually came under the sponsorship of the Memorial Union but fell into disuse by the late 1930s. The land on which this lodge stood was given by the university in trade as part of the acquisition of **Picnic Point** (see below).

The **Picnic Point Farm** owned by the Breese Stevens family consisted of all of the land between Lake Mendota Drive and University Bay. Most of this farm was sold in 1925 to

Edward Young, a wealthy lumberman. Young and his family lived on **Picnic Point** and developed a series of roads and trails, some of which still exist. The gate and stone wall at the entrance to **Picnic Point** were built by Young. In 1935 a disastrous fire occurred in the Young home, and the Youngs moved away from Picnic Point. In the late 1930s, the Youngs sold the Picnic Point Farm to the UW. As part of the **Picnic Point** sale, Young acquired in trade the university land north of Lake Mendota Drive that was west of the Tent Colony. This included what is now the **Eagle Heights Natural Area** and **Wally Bauman Woods**. In 1951, after Young died, UW benefactor Tom Brittingham, Jr. purchased the **Eagle Heights Natural Area** and gave it back to the university. The property north of Lake Mendota Drive remained private.

In the late 1950s the Young family sold their remaining holdings north of Lake Mendota Drive to developers. A large apartment building was built on a small part of the land adjacent to Shorewood Hills, and condominiums were planned for the remaining land. Due to action of naturalist James Zimmerman and the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation, further development was blocked and most of the remaining land was purchased in 1984 and donated to the university. It was named the **Wally Bauman Woods** in memory of a Dane County Supervisor who had been a strong advocate of natural areas.

After 1984, the only piece of private land along Lake Mendota was a 16-acre parcel from the original Picnic Point farm at Second Point. This property was now owned by Dr. Reginald Jackson Jr. (a descendant of Breese Stevens). After Jackson's death in 1987, the property came under joint ownership of Northwestern University Medical School and the State Medical Society of Wisconsin. Although some consideration was given to selling the property to developers, zoning problems and the difficulty of providing water and sewage made this option financially unattractive. After extensive and complicated negotiations between the medical society, the university, and the UW Foundation, an agreement was reached in 1989 for the purchase of the property, with the funds contributed by the Frautschi family. The name of the point was officially changed from Second Point to **Frautschi Point** on June 15, 1989.

The **Class of 1918 Marsh** was originally part of UW wetland research for the College of Agriculture. By the early 1960s, the UW had abandoned this work and the land between Willow Drive and University Bay Drive was fallow. Some of this land became Parking Lot 60, some the Intramural playing fields, and the remaining land remained wetland. The Class of 1918 donated money for the salvage of this land. The original plan was to construct a small Japanese-style garden with mostly exotic plants, but UW student activists initiated a campaign to create a much larger natural wetland. James Zimmerman played major role in this effort. The **Class of 1918 Marsh** was opened in 1972.

Appendix 2

Overview of the 1996 UW-Madison Campus Natural Areas Management Plan

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What follows is a brief summary. The complete plan can be found on the Campus Natural Areas web site at

<http://www.ies.wisc.edu/cna/Sites.htm> (for site descriptions)

<http://www.ies.wisc.edu/cna/Mgmt.htm> (for management plans).

Note this plan represents a vision. "Restored Prairie/Savanna Landscapes," for example, suggests what these areas could be, not what they are at present.

Goals: The goals of the Management Plan for the Campus Natural Areas are to maintain and/or restore diverse, high quality biological communities that occurred naturally in southern Wisconsin, to ensure the long-term well-being of the natural areas, and to facilitate and enhance appropriate, environmentally sensitive human use.

Management Responsibilities: According to the 1992 Campus Physical Development Plan Summary, the responsibility for managing the Campus Natural Areas is shared by the Arboretum Committee and Physical Plant. Those areas deemed to be of "high value for research and teaching" are to be maintained by the Arboretum. All plantings require prior approval by the Arboretum Committee.

Management Areas: The 15 areas that make up the campus natural areas network are divided into four groups: natural woods, (potential) restored prairie landscapes, wooded corridors, and natural wetlands. The plan makes general management recommendations for each of the four groups and then discusses specific features and problems to be addressed for each site within each group. Off-road bicycle use has severely damaged some areas and is prohibited in all areas. Bicycles are restricted to Lakeshore Path, Willow Drive, and Bill's Woods bike trail, and, for a trial period, the main trail on Picnic Point and the trail circling the Class of 1918 Marsh.

Natural Woods: Eagle Heights Woods, Wally Bauman Woods, North Shore Woods, Second Point Woods, Caretaker's Woods, Bill's Woods, Muir Woods

All are oak woods that represent the type of woods that grew up naturally in southern Wisconsin after cessation of presettlement fires. Their present condition varies, depending upon the amount of human disturbance they have experienced. Most suffer from erosion (exacerbated by bicycles) and invasion by honeysuckle, buckthorn, and garlic mustard, which suppress the native shrubs and groundlayer species. Management recommendations are to control erosion, remove the non-native species, close unofficial trails (particularly those that cause severe erosion problems) and improve the official trail system in order to encourage users to stay on the trails.